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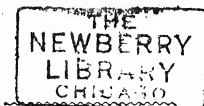
THE
CONFESSION OF FAITH
AND COVENANT

OF THE
EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

IN GRAFTON, MASS.

WITH A
Brief History and List of its Members,

JANUARY 1, 1842.



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D GRAFTON, MASS. EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
284432 The confession of faith and covenant of the
.4 Evangelical Congregational church in Grafton,
Mass. With a brief history and list of its mem-
bers, January 1, 1842. Worcester, Spooner, 1842.
60p.



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ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. There is but one God, the Creator, preserver and governor of the universe, possessed of every natural and moral perfection, whom it is the duty of all intelligent creatures to love and obey.

Deut. 6 : 4. 1 Cor. 8 : 4—6. Heb. 3 : 4. Neh. 9 : 6. Prov. 16 : 33. Dan. 4 : 34, 35. Job 11 : 7—9. Ex. 34 : 6, 7. Micah 6 : 8.

II. The mode of the Divine existence is such as lays a foundation for a distinction into three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit ; and these three are one in essence and equal in every divine perfection.

Matt. 28 : 19. 1 John 5 : 7. 2 Cor. 13 : 14. Gen. 1 : 26, 3 : 22 and 11 : 7. Matt. 7 : 21, 10 : 32, 33 and 11 : 27. John 8 : 19, 54, 58. Matt. 8 : 29, 14 : 33, 26 : 63 and 27 : 43. Isa. 9 : 6. John 1 : 1—3. Heb. 1 : 3—8. 1 John 5 : 20. 1 Tim. 3 : 16. John 20 : 28. Heb. 13 : 8. Rev. 1 : 8 and 2 : 8. Eph. 4 : 10. Matt. 18 : 20 and 28 : 20. John 3 : 13. Rev. 2 : 23. John 2 : 24, 25 and 21 : 17. Heb. 1 : 6. John 9 : 38. Luke 24 : 52. Acts 7 : 59. John 2 : 19. Rom. 8 : 11. Job 26 : 13 and 30 : 4. John 14 : 16, 17. Acts 5 : 34. Rom. 8 : 26, 27. 2 Cor. 3 : 17. Gal. 5 : 22, 23.

III. The Bible is the word of God ; it was written by holy men, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, and is a perfect rule of faith and practice.

2 Tim. 3 : 16. 2 Peter 1 : 21. Isa. 8 : 20. Matt. 20 : 29. Ps. 19 : 7—10. Acts 17 : 11. Jer. 8 : 9.

IV. The providence of God is universal and particular. He has, for his own glory, foreordained whatsoever comes to pass, working all things after the counsel of his own

will, and yet in perfect consistency with the free moral agency of his intelligent creatures.

Matt. 10: 29—31. Heb. 1: 3. Rom. 11: 36. Neh. 9: 6. Ps. 36: and 104: 19—21. Dan. 4: 35. Eph. 1: 11. Eccl. 3: 14. Rom. 9: 17—23. Phil. 2: 13. Rev. 17: 17 and 6: 11. Isa. 43: 7, 48: 11, 45: 7 and 46: 10. Prov. 16: 4, 19: 21, 21: 1 and 16: 1—9. Job 23: 13, 14. Acts 2: 23 and 15: 18.

V. God created Adam perfectly holy, and constituted him the representative head of all his posterity, suspending their moral character upon his probationary conduct.

Gen. 1: 26, 27. Eccl. 7: 29. Rom. 5: 12—19. 1 Cor. 15: 21, 22.

VI. In consequence of the fall of Adam, his posterity, being partakers of his nature and connected with him as their federal head, are wholly estranged from God, are under the curse of the law, and deserve eternal death.

Gen. 2: 17. Rom. 5: 12—20. chaps. 1, 2 and 3 and 8: 7, 8. 2 Cor. 5: 14. Ezek. 18: 4. Gal. 3: 10. Eccl. 9: 3. Jer. 17: 9.

VII. The Lord Jesus Christ became incarnate, and by his obedience, suffering and death, has made an atonement for sin adequate to the wants of the whole world; although they only are savingly benefited by it who exercise faith in the Redeemer, and accept of the salvation freely offered to them in the Gospel.—He also rose from the dead, ascended to the Father and ever liveth to make intercession for his people.

Gal. 4: 4. Matt. 1: 25 and 28: 1—10. Luke 1: 31—35 and 2: 7. Rom. 9: 5, 5: 6, 8, 19, 3: 26, 4: 24 and 8: 11, 34. John 12: 13, 14, 3: 15, 16, 18, 5: 24, 6: 29, 35, 7: 38, 13: 33, 14: 2—12—16—28 and 16: 28. 2 Cor. 5: 14, 15, 8: 9. Gal. 3: 13. Eph. 1: 7. 1 Peter 1: 18—21. 1 Tim. 2: 5, 6. Heb. 2: 9, 7: 25 and 10: 38, 39. 1 John 2: 2, 5: 10—13. Mark 16: 16. Acts 10: 43. 13: 39, 16: 31 and 1: 9. Job 19: 25. Ps. 16: 10. 1 Cor. 15: 4, 13—20. Isa. 53: 12.

VIII. In the covenant of redemption God hath given

to Christ a part of mankind whom according to his sovereign pleasure, he hath from eternity chosen, unto salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth.

Eph. 1 : 45. John 6 : 39, 17 : 6, 9, 11, 12, 24. Rom. 8 : 29, 30. 11 : 5—7. 2 Thess. 2 : 13. 1 Pet. 1 : 2.

IX. The efficacious influences of the Holy Spirit are essentially necessary to renew and sanctify the heart, by the application of the atonement of Christ : and they who are thus renewed shall be preserved from final apostacy, be made meet for heaven and finally be conducted to eternal glory ; while all the unrenewed and unsanctified will be left to perish.

John 3 : 3—8. 1 : 13 and 10 : 28. 2 Thess. 2 : 13. Rom. 1 : 24, 26, 28, 8 : 29—39 and 9 : 17, 18, 21, 22. 1 Cor. 6 : 11, and 1 : 8. Eph. 4 : 23, 24. Jer. 31 : 3 and 30 : 11, 40. Heb. 13 : 20, 21. 2 Sam. 23 : 5. Heb. 7 : 25.—Luke 22 : 32. 1 John 3 : 9, and 2 : 27. 1 Pet. 1 : 5, and 2 : 8. Phil. 1 : 6. Matt. 11 : 25, 26. 2 Tim. 2 : 20.

X. Jesus Christ has a visible church in the world into which none in the sight of God but real believers, and none in the sight of men but visible believers have right of admission.

Matt. 16 : 18 and 18 : 17. Acts 2 : 47. 1 Cor. 1 : 2. 2 Cor. 6 : 14—18, and 1 : 1. 1 Thess. 1 : 1—3. Psalms 50 : 16.

XI. Christ has appointed two special ordinances in his church, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Adult believers, who have not been baptized, and the children of professing believers are the proper subjects of baptism.—None but the cordial friends of Christ ought to partake of the Lord's Supper : and every church ought to require a profession of holy love to the Lord Jesus Christ of all whom they admit to their communion.

Matt. 28 : 19, and 26 : 26—29. Gen. 17 : 10. Rom. 6 : 11 and 11 : 17—24, Acts 15 : 1, 24, 29, 2 : 39, 16 : 15, 33 and 8 : 37. Gal. 5 : 1, 2, 3 : 27—29. Luke 18 : 15, 16. 1 Cor. 1 : 16, and 7 : 14.

XII. There will be a resurrection of the dead both of the righteous and the wicked ; and also a final judgment when all will receive according to their works—and the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

1 Cor. 15: 12—23, 51, 52. 1 Thess. 4: 17. Job 19: 26, 27. Acts 24: 15. John 5: 27—29. Dan. 12: 2. Matt. 25: 31—46. 2 Cor. 5: 10. Matt. 24: 36, 42—44.

Note. Though no human compositions are of divine authority, yet we look upon the confession of Faith and shorter catechism agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, to be an excellent system of the doctrines of our holy religion.

COVENANT.

You do now most solemnly declare, that the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son and Holy Ghost is your God, that you will fear Him, cleave to Him in love, and serve him heartily and entirely ; giving up yourself to Him to be His in all things, to be disposed of, and directed as He shall choose, that you may always enjoy communion with Him according to the revealed will of God, as a member of Christ's mystical body.

You promise to adhere to the truth of Christ, and to vindicate it as God may give you ability, making the Holy Scriptures your standard ; and by God's grace to maintain a very strict watch over your own heart, seeking to obtain through the operation of the Holy Spirit the mortification of all your unholy passions, worldly desires or disorderly affections whereby you may be withdrawn from the living God.

You promise to sanctify the Sabbath, calling it a delight, the holy of the Lord honorable, guarding yourself throughout the day from worldly thoughts, cares, words and works.

You promise, also, to educate all persons who may be under your domestic government in the knowledge and fear of God, instructing them in the doctrines and precepts of His holy word, and praying with and for them.

You moreover bind yourself faithfully to improve all your opportunities of worshipping God by attending upon the public means of grace ; by reading his holy word ; by secret prayer, and by holding communion with His church in both the seals, baptism and the Lord's Supper.

And you promise to walk in love towards all the members of this church, aiming at mutual edification ; visiting, exhorting and comforting as opportunity may offer ; admonishing any brother or sister who may offend ; exercising a charitable temper towards all who manifest genuine repentance ; not divulging private offences irregularly ; and peaceably submitting yourself to the discipline appointed by Christ in his church for offenders.

Thus you covenant and promise in humble dependence upon the grace of God, to assist and enable you to perform your vows.

We do now receive you as a member in full communion with the church of Christ, and as such declare that you have a right to all the ordinances of His house, and that we the members of this church are under covenant engagements to watch over you in love.

And now may the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

Previous to entering upon the history of this church, we think the following note, which we find in the ancient records of the church, may not be without interest.

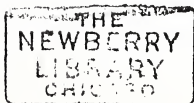
"The Indian church which was gathered in this place, was the second native church in New England. It was formed either by Rev. John Eliot, or some one raised up through his instrumentality. It is said to have been one of the most permanent establishments of the kind, and yet it would seem as if it continued but a short time in its original state. It was formed in 1671, and three years after contained it is said about 16 members living in the town, besides several residing in other places. But 60 years after, as appears from the records of this church, it was necessary to form another, and none were probably natives."

This church dates its origin as far back as Dec. 29, 1731. At which time a Council having been convened, Mr. Solomon Prentice was ordained as its first pastor. The following clergymen officiated on the occasion. Introductory prayer by Rev. Mr. Parkman of Westborough. Sermon by Rev. Mr. Appleton of Cambridge. Ordaining prayer by Rev. Mr. Swift of Framingham. Rev. Mr. Trowbridge of Groton joined in laying on of hands. Rev. Mr. Loring of Sudbury gave the right hand of fellowship. The church then numbered 20 members; and there were added to it during the ministry of Rev. Mr. Prentice 84 males and 94 females; total 178. The following individuals were chosen deacons; Bro's James Whipple and Samuel Cooper; and after a lapse of ten years Bro. Joseph Meriam was also elected to the office of deacon.

Rev. Mr. Prentice was born in 1705. Educated at Harvard college, and graduated 1727. The next day after this church was embodied, he was ordained as its pastor, and continued fifteen years and a half. He was considered at that time a *new light*, which created some dissatisfaction. He afterwards preached a considerable time at Bellingham and other places.

After a lapse of nearly three years, Mr. Aaron Hutchinson was, June 6, 1750, invested with the pastoral office. Services on the occasion were as follows. Introductory prayer by Rev. Mr. Martyn of Westborough.—Sermon by Rev. Mr. Pumroy, of Hebron, from Acts 20 : 28. Charge by Rev. Mr. Loring of Sudbury. Right hand of fellowship by Rev. Mr. Parkman of Westborough. Ordaining and concluding prayers, by Rev. Mr. Hall, of Sutton. Bro's Joseph Batcheller and Abner Stowe were chosen deacons. 83 were added to the church, during the ministry of Rev. Mr. Hutchinson, which continued nearly twenty-two years. Rev. Mr. H. was educated at Yale College, and graduated, 1747.—He was very eccentric in his character, and social intercourse. He possessed much classical knowledge. His memory was so tenacious, that he often said, if the New Testament was lost, he could write it again. He resigned his pastoral relation to this church, Nov. 18, 1772.—After which he continued to supply vacant societies, and lived to an advanced age.

The church then remained destitute for nearly two years, at the expiration of which time, Mr. Daniel Grosvenor was chosen pastor. The following churches were invited to assist in his ordination. 1st, 2d and 3d churches in Pomfret, Ct. churches in Sutton, Shrewsbury, Mendon and Upton. The order of exercises on the occasion was as follows. Introductory prayer by Rev. Aaron Putnam. Sermon, by Rev. Ebenezer Grosvenor; text, Gen. 45 : 24. Ordaining prayer, by Rev. Elisha Fish. Rev. David Ripley and Rev. Joseph Sumner joined in laying on of hands. Rev. David Hall gave the charge. Rev. Amariah Frost gave the right hand of fellowship. Rev. Josiah Whitney made the concluding prayer. During the



time of his ministerial connexion with this church there were 41 admissions to its number. Rev. Mr. Grosvenor was born at Pomfret, Ct. 1749. He was educated at Yale; graduated 1769. He sustained the pastoral office to this church more than thirteen years, when his health became feeble, and his voice failed, he resigned his charge. Suspending for a time the discharge of ministerial duties, his health and voice were in a good measure restored; he resumed the labors of the ministry, and in 1794 was installed at Paxton, where he continued eight years, and then resigned. He lived nearly thirty-two years after his resignation, and closed his life at Petersham in July, 1834, aged eighty-five. Mr. Grosvenor was a popular preacher, a useful and respectable man; a friend to his country, and did much, at the commencement of the revolutionary war, to inspire courage in the soldiers. "He left his pulpit, and marched with his musket, in a company of minute men, that went to Cambridge on the 19th of April, 1775." He reared a large family, and two of his sons are ministers.

After being destitute until June 18th, 1790, the church made choice of Mr. Nathaniel Howe to become their pastor, which invitation he declined. This year, Bro's Joseph Meriam, Jr., and Jonathan Stow, were chosen to, and accepted the office of deacons. The church still remaining destitute for a space of seven years, then united in the choice of Mr. John Miles to be their pastor. The order of exercises at his ordination was as follows. Introductory prayer, by Rev. John Robinson, of Westborough. Sermon by Rev. Asaph Rice, of Westminster, from Isa. 49: 4. Ordaining prayer, by Rev. Zedekiah Sanger, of Bridgewater. Charge, by Rev. Daniel Grosvenor, of Paxton. Right hand of fellowship, by Rev. Joseph Sumner of Shrewsbury. Concluding prayer, by Rev. Ezra Ripley, of Concord. At the time of Rev. Mr. Miles' settlement, the church numbered 38. While he remained its pastor there were 28 males, and 67 females, making a total of 95, added to the church. Also during his ministry, Bro's Timothy Meriam, Nathaniel Adams, Esq., Albert Stone, and Joseph Meriam were chosen deacons.

Rev. Mr. Miles was born at Westminster ; was educated at Brown University, and graduated in 1794. He continued as pastor of this church about thirty years, and then resigned ; he has since removed to Shrewsbury, where he now cultivates a farm.

Immediately after the dismissal of Rev. Mr Miles from this church, Mr. Moses C. Searle, having received, and accepted a call, was ordained its pastor Sept. 21st 1826. The following churches were invited to assist in his ordination. Old South and Union churches in Boston. Tabernacle church in Salem. The churches in Lynnfield, Northbridge, Upton, Millbury, Uxbridge, Westborough, Douglas, Ward, Sutton and Shrewsbury. Order of exercises was as follows. Rev. Mr. Rockwood offered the Introductory prayer. Rev. Samuel Green preached from 1 Corinthians, 1 : 23, 24. Rev. Mr. Judson offered the ordaining prayer. Rev. Dr. Crane gave the charge to the pastor. Rev. Joseph Searle expressed the fellowship of the churches. Rev. Mr. Goffe gave the charge to the people ; and Rev. Mr. Wood offered the concluding prayer. At the time of Rev. Mr. Searle's settlement, there were 19 males and 48 females, total, 67, connected with the church ; and during his ministry, 60 males, and 102 females, total, 162, were added to its number. Bro's Holland Greenwood and Otis Prince, were elected to the office of deacons. Rev. Mr. Searle was born at Rowley, 1797 ; was educated at Princeton, and graduated in 1821. He sustained the pastoral office in this church five years and a half, and resigned in Apr. 1832, and was installed at West Bradford, Jan 20th, 1833, and resigned in April 1834 ; was reinstalled at New Hartford, N. Y., in 1835, where he now remains.

At the close of Rev. Mr. Searle's ministry, the church and a part of the society, finding that there was no probability of their continuing to enjoy the ministrations of an evangelical pastor while connected with the parish, seceded from it, and made provision for the preaching of the gospel in its purity, by the erection of a commodious house of worship, and the settlement of a pastor ; and Rev. John Wilde was ordained as such, June 20, 1832, which

was about two months after Rev. Mr. Searle's dismissal. The exercises on the occasion were as follows. Introductory prayer by Rev. Mr. Fletcher of Northbridge. Sermon by Dr. Codman of Dorchester. Consecrating prayer by Rev. Mr. Rockwood of Westborough. Charge by Rev. Mr. Wood of Upton. Right hand of fellowship by Rev. Mr. Herrick of Millbury. Address to the people by Rev. Mr. Allen of Shrewsbury. Concluding prayer by Rev. Mr. Maltby of Sutton. The services were solemn, and interesting. At the time of Rev. Mr. Wilde's settlement there were 195 connected the church; and during his ministry, 24 males, and 56 females, total, 80, were added to its number. Rev. Mr. Wilde was born in Dorchester, 1802. Graduated at Middlebury, 1827. His pastoral relation with this church continued six years. In about a year after his dismissal from this church, he was installed pastor of the church of Christ in Conway, N. H. where he now remains.

The present pastor, Rev. Thomas C. Biscoe, was ordained July 18th, 1838. The following churches were invited to assist in his ordination. The Evan. Congregational church in Cambridge, Calv. church in Worcester, churches in Westborough, Upton, Shrewsbury, Marlborough, Northbridge, Sutton, Epsom, N. H., and the 2d. Cong. Church in Millbury. The order of exercises on the occasion was as follows. Introductory prayer by Rev. Mr. Kittredge of Westborough. Sermon by Rev. Mr. Stearns of Cambridge from 2 John, 9. Consecrating prayer by Rev. Mr. Forbush of Northbridge. Charge to the pastor by Rev. Mr. Wood of Upton. Right hand of fellowship by Rev. Mr. Peabody of Worcester. Address to the people by Rev. Mr. Allen of Shrewsbury. Concluding prayer by Rev. Mr. Tracy of Sutton. The number of members at the time of the settlement of the present pastor was 202; 61 males, and 141 females. From that time to Jan. 1842, 79 have been added to the church. In 1838, Bro. Otis Adams was chosen to, and accepted the office of deacon. Rev. Mr. Biscoe was born at Cambridge. He was educated at Amherst, and graduated in 1831.

CATALOGUE

OF THE

EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, GRAFTON,

JANUARY, 1842.

PASTOR,
THOMAS C. BISCOE,

Ordained July 18, 1838.

DEACONS.

1810 ALBERT STONE.	1817 JOSEPH MERIAM,
1829 HOLLAND GREENWOOD.	1828 OTIS ADAMS.

Time of Admission. MALES.

1817 Stephen Holbrook
 1820 John Hector
 " Tarrant Meriam
 1823 Benjamin W. Fay
 1824 Joseph Meriam, Jr.
 1827 Perley Batcheller
 " Samuel Green
 1828 Timothy Meriam
 " Jonathan Hayden
 " Hollis Chamberlain
 " Elijah Kimball
 1829 David White
 " Calvin Taft
 " Erie Jackson
 1831 Charles I. Warren

FEMALES.

1739 Molly Kimball
 1807 Lucy Adams
 1810 Hannah Harrington
 " Sally B. Stone
 " Sabra Sibley
 " Mary Adams
 " Anna Brigham
 1811 Eunice Cutler
 1817 Priscilla Prentice
 1820 Susanna Golding
 1821 Sabra Leland
 " Tabitha Wadsworth
 " Sally Meriam
 " Patty Adams
 " Anna Meriam

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|------|---------------------|------|----------------------|
| 1831 | Lucien Howe | 1822 | Priscilla Putnam |
| " | William Holbrook | " | Eunice Hayden |
| " | Charles E. Kimball | 1823 | Georgianna M. Fisk |
| " | John P. Boyden | 1824 | Mary C. Meriam |
| " | Benjamin Green | " | Polly Read |
| " | Henry A. Ball | " | Diädama Brigham |
| " | Oliver M. Brigham | 1827 | Nancy Sibley |
| " | Lewis Holbrook | " | Harriet Gary |
| " | Sumner Dunsmore | " | Sarah Leland |
| " | Luther Stow | " | Lucy Wood |
| " | Martin Stow | 1828 | Elizabeth Holbrook |
| " | Charles Meriam | " | Lucy Meriam |
| " | Joseph H. Whitney | " | Sylvia Adams |
| " | Benjamin Wadsworth | " | Susannah Brigham |
| " | Edward B. Bigelow | " | Sally Hayden |
| 1832 | Elias T. White | " | Susan Wheelock |
| " | Elijah L. Case | " | Susan Greenwood |
| " | Wyman Fay | " | Susan P. Wheelock |
| 1835 | Lewis W. Dodge | " | Martha Hall |
| " | Francis Winn | " | Lucy Clapp |
| " | Royal A. Keith | 1829 | Adah Golding |
| " | John McCrellis | " | Luciana Fowler |
| 1836 | Royal Leland | " | Lucy E. Pratt |
| " | Calvin Perry | 1830 | Hannah P. Wood |
| " | Joseph A. Warren | " | Mary M. Munroe |
| " | Sylvanus Pratt | " | Susannah E. Rice |
| " | John C. Knapp | " | Serena B. Holden |
| 1837 | Thaddeus R. Rider | " | Mary D. Redding |
| 1838 | William G. Morse | " | Sally Meriam |
| " | Merrill Greenwood | " | Huldah C. Warren |
| " | Benjamin C. Green | " | Mary A. Leland |
| 1839 | Charles H. Towne | 1831 | Azubah Lathe |
| " | Francis H. Rice | " | Sarah B. Holbrook |
| " | Abraham M. Bigelow | " | Elizabeth M. Flagg |
| " | Charles Munroe | " | Abigail M. Wood |
| " | John Claffin | " | Adeline P. Claffin |
| 1840 | Josiah H. Hammond | " | Martha H. Dodge |
| " | Solomon L. Prentice | " | Elizabeth W. Allen |
| " | John P. Hayden | " | Louisa G. Knowlton |
| " | Felix Brown | " | Clarinda G. Flanders |

1840 Benjamin Kingsbury
 " John C. Knowlton
 " Samuel F. Redding
 " Lovel Stow
 " Joshua W. Leland
 " Rensselaer Patch
 " Leander Stockwell
 " Delano Pierce
 " Frederic F. Elliot
 " James A. Goodale
 1841 Samuel Harrington
 " Stephen F. Rice
 " William Hill
 " Loanmi B. Rice.

1831 Mary E. Hastings
 " Martha E. Goddard
 " Harriet W. Estis
 " Mary K. Stow
 " Mary K. Kimball
 " Lucy W. Green
 " Mary E. Hayden
 " Martha K. Pratt
 " Susan J. Meriam
 " Rachel Dunsmore
 " Hannah Green
 " Sarah W. Putnam
 " Melinda Nichols
 " Charlotte T. Whitney
 " Martha P. Holbrook
 " Charlotte Leland
 " Mary C. Adams
 1832 Polly Prentice
 " Sarah White
 " Susan Redding
 " Hannah G. Holbrook
 " Betsey Wing
 " Lorana Case
 " Eliza J. Pike
 " Emily E. Adams
 " Sally Wheelock
 " Lucy Brigham
 1833 Thankful Munroe
 " Lucy Wood
 " Esther Greenwood
 1834 Hannah Pease
 " Susan Jourdan
 1835 Sally Lindley
 " Sophia K. Maynard
 " Eleanor M. Bigelow
 " Catherine Singleterry
 " Maria C. Brigham
 " Susan Brigham
 " Martha Fay
 " Sarah Howe

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|------|-------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1836 | Nancy Perry | 1840 | Patty Leland |
| " | Margaret Leland | " | Chloe Bosworth |
| " | Lucinda Warner | " | Mehitable C. Bolton |
| " | Eunice Wheeler | " | Eunice E. Bolton |
| " | Nancy Adams | " | Lucy E. Stone |
| " | Sarah Hayden | " | Sarah S. Lathe |
| " | Diadama Wheeler | " | Nancy Bowen |
| " | Anna Pierce | " | Thankful Eames |
| " | Eleanor E. Knapp | " | Sarah C. Keith |
| 1837 | Lucy H. Perry | " | Betsey H. Kimball |
| " | Eleanor M. Meriam | " | Polly Leland |
| " | Mary J. Amsden | " | Thankful Wadsworth |
| " | Delia M. Warren | " | Almy Grosvenor |
| " | Lucinda Brigham | " | Mary A. Dalrymple |
| " | Sally McNamara | " | Nancy Bowen |
| " | Caroline Meriam | 1841 | Hannah W Harrington |
| " | Adeline Holbrook | " | Mary A. Ball |
| " | Polly Knowlton | " | Mary M. Brown |
| " | Sarah A. Putnam | " | Abigail S. Reed |
| " | Sarah Warren | " | Julia A. Pierce |
| 1838 | Rebecca A. Morse | " | Sally E. Warren |
| " | Olive J. Whitney | " | Julia M. Reed |
| " | Bathsheba Biscoe | " | Hannah N. Warren |
| " | Ellen E. Biscoe | " | Harriet N. Putnam |
| 1839 | Lucy Munroe | " | Lydia D. Keith |
| " | Hannah A. Green | " | Nancy M. Sibley |
| " | Candice Kimberly | " | Grace Butterfield |
| " | Fanny Brown | " | Emily B. Hill |
| " | Eliza B. Biscoe | " | Julia Waterman |
| 1840 | Anna G. Hammond | " | Lois Hayden |
| " | Mary F. Kimball | " | Elizabeth Putnam |
| " | Almira Rawson | " | Maria L. Flagg |
| " | Anna Putnam | " | Tamar Howe |
| " | Hannah Kingsbury | " | Nancy Winn. |

MANUAL

OF THE

Evangelical Congregational Church

AT

GRAFTON, MASS.

1869.



MANUAL

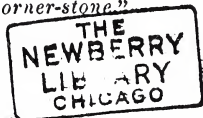
OF THE

Evangelical Congregational Church,

AT

GRAFTON, MASS.

*"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone."*



ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 3, 1869.

WORCESTER:
PRINTED BY CHAS. HAMILTON,
PALLADIUM OFFICE.
1870.



ITEM. At a regular meeting of the Church, held March 5, 1869, it was *voted*

“That the Examining Committee of the Church constitute a Committee to consider the expediency of Revising the Confession of Faith and Covenant, as well the List of Members; to complete the History of the Church to the present date; and to Report to the Church for their decision.”

1941





HISTORICAL SKETCH.



THE following note, found in the oldest records of this Church, gives the origin of the first Church of Christ in the town of Grafton, then known by its Indian title, "Hassanamisco."

"The Indian Church which was gathered in this place, was the second Native Ch. in N. E.: it was formed either by Rev^d John Eliot, or some one raised up through his instrumentality. It is said to have been one of the most permanent establishments of the kind, and yet it w^d seem as if it continued but a short time in its original state.

It was formed in 1671, and three years after contained, it is said, about 16 members living in y^e town, besides several residing in other places. But 60 years after, as appears from this Book, it was necessary to form another, and none were *natives* probably."

The church last alluded to in the foregoing note is that now existing, and was organized at Hassana-

misco, Dec. 28, 1731, as appears from the accompanying record.

“A Church of our Lord Jesus Christ being about to be gathered in s^d place, the candidates for the Ch. were, by the Rev^d Elders and Beloved Messengers in counsel assembled, desired to bring their certificates from the Chh. which they respectively belong^d unto, which certificates being brought in and read before the counsel they proceeded to embody into a church of our Lord Jesus Christ those persons before mentioned and recommended. The number was Twenty-two.”

On July 9th, 1728, it was voted at a public meeting of the Proprietors of the town, to build a Meeting House, to be finished at or before Nov. 1, 1730. This house was erected on the site of the Common in the centre of the Town, and was occupied for religious worship about three-quarters of a century.

In the month of May, 1735, the plantation of Hassanamisco was organized under the name of “Grafton,” by the choice and appointment of the proper town officers. The present House of Worship was dedicated Dec. 4th, 1833.





BIOGRAPHICAL.



THE following facts connected with the ministry of each Pastor of interest, it is thought both in the history of the Church and to its members, are added.

At the ordination of Rev. Solomon Prentice, the introductory prayer was offered by Rev. Ebenezer Parkman, of Westborough; sermon by Rev. Nathaniel Appleton, of Cambridge; ordaining prayer by Rev. Mr. Smith, of Framingham. Rev. Caleb Trowbridge, of Groton, joined in the laying on of hands. Right hand of fellowship, Rev. Mr. Loring, of Sudbury. During Mr. Prentice's ministry 178 were added to the Church. He was born at Cambridge, May, 11, 1705; graduated at Harvard, 1727; died at Grafton, May 22, 1773, aged 68 years.

At the ordination of Rev. Aaron Hutchinson, Rev. Mr. Martyn, of Westborough (now Northboro'), offered the introductory prayer; Rev. Mr.

Pumroy, of Hebron, Conn., preached the sermon; text, Acts 20:28. The charge by Rev. Mr. Loring, of Sudbury; right hand by Rev. Mr. Parkman, of Westborough; ordaining prayer by Rev. Mr. Hall, of Sutton.

During the ministry of Mr. Hutchinson 83 were added to the Church. He was born at Hebron, Ct.; graduated at Yale, 1747.

At the ordination of Rev. Daniel Grosvenor, the introductory prayer was offered by Rev. Aaron Putnam, of the First Church of Pomfret, Ct.; sermon by Rev. Ebenezer Grosvenor, of Scituate; text, Gen. 45:24. Ordaining prayer by Rev. Elisha Fish, of Upton; laying on of hands by Rev. David Ripley, of the Third Church in Pomfret (now Abington), and Rev. Joseph Sumner, of Shrewsbury; charge by Rev. David Hall, of Sutton; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Amariah Frost, of Mendon (now Milford;) concluding prayer by Rev. Josiah Whitney, of the Second Church in Pomfret (now Brooklyn.)

During Mr. Grosvenor's ministry 41 were added to the Church. He was born at Pomfret, Ct., 1749; graduated at Yale, 1769; died at Petersham, July 22, 1834, aged 84.

At the ordination of Rev. John Miles, the introductory prayer was offered by Rev. John Robinson, of Westboro'; sermon by Rev. Asaph Rice, of West-

PASTORS.

REV. SOLOMON PRENTICE,

Ordained December 29th, 1731. Dismissed July 10th, 1747.

REV. AARON HUTCHINSON,

Ordained June 6th, 1750. Dismissed November 18th, 1772.

REV. DANIEL GROSVENOR,

Ordained October 19th, 1774. Dismissed January 1st, 1788.

REV. JOHN MILES,

Ordained October 12th, 1796. Dismissed September 7th, 1826.

REV. MOSES C. SEARLE,

Ordained September 21st, 1826. Dismissed March 21st, 1832.

REV. JOHN WILDE,

Ordained June 20th, 1832. Dismissed July 18th, 1838.

REV. THOMAS C. BISCOE,

Ordained July 18th, 1838. Dismissed July 26th, 1868.

REV. JOHN H. WINDSOR,

Installed September 29th, 1868.

DEACONS.

JAMES WHIPPLE,	Elected January 21, 1732.
SAMUEL COOPER,	“ “ “
JOSEPH MERRIAM,	Elected November 25, 1742.
ABNER STOWE,	Elected September 27, 1750.
JOSEPH BATCHELDER,	Elected April 4, 1765.
JOSEPH MERRIAM, Jr.,	Elected April 14, 1790.
JONATHAN STOW,	“ “ “
TIMOTHY MERRIAM,	Elected October 29, 1810.
NATHANIEL ADAMS,	Elected December 26, 1810.
ALBERT STONE,	Elected June 8, 1820.
JOSEPH MERRIAM,	Elected June 10, 1824.
HOLLAND GREENWOOD,	Elected December 15, 1831.
OTIS PRINCE,	Elected January 4, 1832.
OTIS ADAMS,	Elected September 14, 1838.
LEANDER S. PRATT,	Elected September 3d, 1852.
FRANCIS WINN,	Elected November 5, 1852.
LEANDER STOCKWELL,	Elected July 3, 1862.
LEWIS HOLBROOK,	“ “ “

minster; text, Is. 49:4. Ordaining prayer by Rev. Zedekiah Sawyer, of Bridgewater; charge by Rev. Daniel Grosvenor, of Paxton; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Joseph Sumner, of Shrewsbury; the concluding prayer by Rev. Ezra Ripley, of Concord.

The additions to the Church during Mr. Miles's ministry were 95. He was born at Westminster; graduated at Brown University, 1794.

At the ordination of Rev. Moses C. Searle, Rev. Elisha Rockwood, of Westboro', offered the introductory prayer; Rev. Samuel Green, of the Union Church, Boston, preached the sermon; text, 1 Cor. 1: 23, 24. Rev. Samuel Judson, of Uxbridge, offered the ordaining prayer; charge by Rev. John Crane, of Northbridge; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Joseph Searle, of Lynnfield; charge to the people by Rev. Joseph Goffe, of Millbury; concluding prayer by Rev. Benj. Wood, of Upton.

The additions to the Church during Mr. Searle's ministry were 162. He was born at Rowley, 1797; graduated at Princeton, 1821.

At the close of Mr. Searle's pastorate, the Church, and a portion of the society, finding that there was no probability of their continuing to enjoy the labors of an Evangelical Pastor while connected with the parish, withdrew from it, and made provision for the preaching of the Gospel in its purity by the erection of a commodious house of worship—the one still

standing—and the settlement of a Pastor, Rev. John Wilde.

At Mr. Wilde's ordination, Rev. Mr. Fletcher, of Northbridge, offered the introductory prayer; sermon by Rev. John Codman, D.D., of Dorchester; ordaining prayer by Rev. Elisha Rockwood, of Westboro'; charge by Rev. Benj. Wood, of Upton; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Osgood Herrick, of Millbury; charge to the people by Rev. George Allen, of Shrewsbury; concluding prayer by Rev. John Maltby, of Sutton.

There were eighty additions to the Church during Mr. Wilde's ministry. He was born at Dorchester in 1803; graduated at Middlebury, Vt., 1827; died at Alexandria, Va., February 10, 1868, aged 65.

At the ordination of Rev. Thomas C. Biscoe, the introductory prayer was offered by Rev. C. B. Kittridge, of Westboro'; sermon by Rev. William A. Stearns, of Cambridge; text, John 2:9. Ordaining prayer, Rev. Charles Forbush, of Northbridge; charge, Rev. Benj. Wood, of Upton; right hand of fellowship, Rev. David Peabody, of Worcester; charge to the people, Rev. George Allen, of Shrewsbury; concluding prayer, Rev. Hiram A. Tracy, of Sutton.

During Mr. Biscoe's ministry 440 were added to the Church. He was born at Cambridge, and graduated at Amherst, 1831.

The exercises at the installation of Rev. John H. Windsor were the following :

Reading of the Scriptures, Rev. William T. Briggs, of East Douglas; introductory prayer by Rev. William A. Houghton, of Berlin; sermon by Prof. Egbert C. Smyth, of Andover Theological Seminary; text, 1 Cor. 15:47; installing prayer by Rev. L. F. Clark, of Whitinsville; charge by Rev. Seth Sweetser, D.D., of Worcester; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Stacy Fowler, of Millbury; charge to the people by Rev. Royal B. Stratton, of Worcester; concluding prayer by Rev. A. O. Bates, of Saundersville.

Mr. Windsor was born in England; graduated at Iowa College, 1854; Andover Theological Seminary, 1857.





CONFESSION OF FAITH.

Stand fast in the faith. 1 Cor: 16: 13.

AS a church of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, associated in accordance with the teachings of the New Testament, for the public worship of God, for the observance of Gospel Sacraments and Ordinances, for mutual edification and encouragement in the Christian life, and for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom, we declare our union in Faith and Love "with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

1. Receiving the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God and the only infallible rule of religious faith and practice, we confess our faith in the One living and true God, revealed as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; the Creator and Preserver of all things, whose purposes and

providence extend to all events, and who exercises a righteous government over all His creatures.

P. 19: 7, 9. 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17. Heb. 1: 1, 2. 2 Pet. 1: 21. Ec. 3: 14. Deu. 6: 4. 1 Cor. 8: 6. Heb. 1: 10. Phil. 3: 21. Jn. 2: 24, 25. Is. 9: 6, 1. Jn. 5: 20. Matt. 8: 2, 3. Jn. 16: 13, 14. 2 Cor. 13, 14. 1 Cor. 2: 10. Matt. 12: 31: 32. Matt. 28: 19. Ac. 5: 3, 4. Gen. 1: 1. Ps. 33: 6. Is. 40: 28, 29. Ps. 33: 11. Is. 46: 9, 10. Ac. 17: 26. Rom. 8: 28, 30. 2 Thess. 2: 13. Rev. 15: 3. Ps. 89: 14. Rom. 2: 11. Rev. 22: 12.

2. We believe in the universal sinfulness and ruin of our race, since "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Ps. 51: 5. Rom. 3: 10. Ec. 8: 11. 1 Ju. 1: 8. Ep. 2: 3. Eph. 4: 15, 16. Ac. 2: 42. Heb. 10: 24, 25. Eph. 3: 10. Jn. 13: 34.

3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, having taken upon Himself our nature, has, by his obedience, sufferings, and death, provided a way of salvation for all mankind; and that through faith in his name, whosoever will, may be saved.

Is. 53: 5, 7. Matt. 1: 21. Phil. 2: 6, 8. 1 Jn. 4: 10. Matt. 26: 28. Ep. 1: 7. Ac. 4: 12. 1 Jn. 2: 2. Rev. 22: 17. Jn. 3: 16. Ac. 3: 19. Ac. 16: 31.

4. We believe that although salvation is offered freely to all, they only repent and believe in Christ who, in thus obeying the gospel, are regenerated by the Holy Spirit; and that all who are thus regenerated are "kept by the power of God, though faith unto salvation."

Jn. 3: 5. Tit. 3: 5, 6. Jam. 1: 18. 2 Thess. 2: 13. Ep. 2: 8-10.
Is. 55: 3. 2 Pet. 1: 10. Jn. 10: 28. 1 Pet. 1: 5. Phil. 1: 6. Heb. 6: 19.

5. We believe that the Christian Sabbath, the Ministry of the Word, the visible Church, the Ordinances of Baptism, embracing Believers and their Households, and of the Lord's Supper, are divinely appointed, and are binding on the followers of Christ until His coming.

Ex. 20: 8-11. Is. 58: 13, 14. Mk. 2: 27, 28. Heb. 10: 25. Matt. 5: 17, 19. Mk. 16: 9. Jn. 20: 19. Jer. 3: 15. Is. 52: 7. Ezk. 33: 7. 1 Cor. 1: 21. Matt. 28: 19, 20. Lk. 24: 49. Ac. 1: 8, 12. Ac. 2: 1-4, 41, 47. Matt. 5: 14. 1 Tim. 3: 15. Ep. 2: 20, 21. Matt. 23: 8. Matt. 18: 15-17. Matt. 28: 19. Mk. 16: 16. Ac. 2: 38, 39. Ac. 16: 15. Gal. 3: 7-9, 17. Matt. 26: 26-28. 1 Cor. 11: 23-29. Ac. 2: 42.

6. We believe that there is a Day appointed in which God will raise the dead, and judge the world; that the wicked shall "go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal."

Danl. 12: 2. Matt. 28: 6, 7. Jn. 5: 28, 29. Jn. 11: 25. 1 Cor. 15: 52. Ac. 17: 31. 2 Cor. 5: 10. Heb. 9: 27. Rev. 20: 12. Matt. 25: 41-46. 2 Thess. 1: 7-9. Jn. 3: 36. Rev. 21: 8. Matt. 25: 34, 46. Rev. 2: 10. Rev. 3: 21. Rev. 7: 13-17.

Do you thus solemnly profess to believe?





COVENANT.

¶ Let us give ourselves unto the Lord in a perpetual covenant, never to be broken. Jer. 1: 5.

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ACCEPTING this as the faith of this Church, you who now present yourselves to be received into its fellowship, do by this act avow your personal sense of the love of God in the forgiveness of your sins; and, trusting that He who hears and answers prayer, will uphold and strengthen you, you do give yourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, and *covenant* to be His disciples, receiving Him as your only Priest and Propitiation, your great Teacher, Lawgiver and King; you dedicate yourselves to God as the object of your highest love, and to His service as your highest joy; engaging to walk with us in the due observance of Christian

ordinances, and that, by the aid of the Divine Spirit, you will honor your profession by a constant Christian Life.

Do you thus covenant with God and with this Church?

BAPTISM.

The Pastor will first address those who have been baptized in infancy, as follows :

You, who were dedicated to God in your childhood in the ordinance of Infant Baptism, by your believing parents, do hereby declare your personal acceptance of the same, and your belief that the regeneration hereby signified has been wrought in your soul by the Holy Spirit.

Then to the others the Pastor will say :

You, who trust that your hearts have been renewed by the Holy Spirit, but who have never received the outward seal of the covenant, will now upon this profession of your faith and consecrating vow, present yourselves for the ordinance of Baptism.

When Baptism has been administered, the Pastor, having requested the members of the Church to rise, will read the following Response of the Church :

We then, the members of this Church, in view of

these your professions and engagements, do joyfully and affectionately receive you to this Communion, and welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessings of the Gospel and in the service of our Divine Redeemer.

We covenant to love and watch over you, and in Christian fidelity to seek your advancement in the life and likeness of Him whose name we bear. And now, beloved of the Lord, let it be impressed upon your minds that you have entered into solemn engagements from which you can never escape. Wherever you go, these vows will be upon you. They will follow you to the bar of God, and abide upon you to eternity. May you walk worthy of God, and of your profession! May the Lord guide and preserve you till death; and at last receive you and us to that blessed world, where our love and joy shall be forever perfect. And unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Herè the Pastor may give the Right Hand to each person, with such brief words of Jesus as he may be pleased to add.





CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH.

ARTICLE I.—GOVERNMENT.

One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren. Matt. 23 : 8.

SECTION 1.—The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers composing it, whose majority vote is final. It is amenable to no other ecclesiastical body. It acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as its only Head, and receives the Scriptures as its only unerring guide in questions of Faith, Order, and Discipline.

SEC. 2.—This Church, while it will control its own affairs, according to its understanding of God's Word, will yet recognize the obligation and the privilege of the communion of churches by seeking and extending that fellowship, sympathy, advice and co-operation, which the law of Christ demands.

ARTICLE II.—MEMBERSHIP.

Ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 1 Cor. 12 : 27.

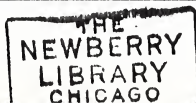
SECTION 1.—All persons may become members of

this Church who give credible evidence of piety, and who assent to its Confession of Faith and Covenant.

SEC. 2.—Persons desirous of becoming members of this church upon profession of their faith shall be examined, as to their religious history and their present Christian experience, by the committee of the Church chosen for that purpose; if approved by the committee, they shall be propounded for admission on the Sabbath next but one preceding the Communion; and, if approved by vote of the Church, they shall be received into fellowship on the Communion Sabbath by publicly assenting to the Confession of Faith, and entering into covenant. It is the privilege of any member or members of the Church to be present at such examination if desired.

SEC. 3.—Members of other Evangelical Churches applying for admission by letter, may be received by vote of the Church, and by assenting to the Confession of Faith and Covenant. It is the right and privilege of the Church to seek acquaintance with the Christian life of such applicants by asking for a narrative of their religious history.

SEC. 4.—If any member be convinced that he is not truly regenerate, but that he professed religion under self deception, and shall request a dissolution of his connection with this Church, if there be no scandal in his life requiring discipline, after due labor has first been used, his request shall be granted,



by a simple vote embracing the facts, which vote shall be announced to the Church.

SEC. 5.—Letters of dismission to Evangelical churches shall be given by vote of the Church to all members in good and unimpeachable standing who desire them. Such letters are to be applied for within one year from the time of leaving, unless satisfactory reasons are given for the delay in the application, before the dismission will be granted. The same rule shall be applied in receiving members from other churches.

ARTICLE III.—OFFICERS.

That ye should be officers in the house of the Lord. Jer. 29: 26.

SECTION 1.—The permanent officers of this Church shall be a Pastor, and two or more Deacons. The other officers shall be a Clerk and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually.

SEC. 2.—All officers shall be elected by ballot. All elections shall be determined by a vote of the majority of the members of the Church present and voting. All officers, except the Pastor, shall serve until their successors are elected. Vacancies may be filled at the option of the Church.

SEC. 3.—The Pastor, who, as soon as practicable after his installation, shall become a member of the Church, shall have control of the pulpit, and the

exercises of public worship, shall ordinarily be moderator in the meetings of the Church, and shall execute the discipline ordered thereby.

SEC. 4.—The Deacons shall aid the Pastor in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, shall take charge of the communion service and of providing for the communion table, shall have the oversight of the poor members for visitation and relief, and shall assist the Pastor generally in the spiritual care of the congregation.

SEC. 5.—The Clerk shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of all business meetings of the Church, and shall submit the same for revision and correction at each meeting preparatory to the Communion. He shall keep a register of the Church Members, with the date of their reception and of their removal, and a record of all baptisms. He shall issue letters of dismission voted by the Church, keep on file all correspondence, all written official reports, and all other valuable papers of the church.

SEC. 6.—The Treasurer shall receive the funds of the Church, and disburse them as the Church may vote; the charitable contributions he shall dispense under the direction of the Deacons; the benevolent contributions he shall forward to their respective destinations; and shall make an annual report to the Church.

ARTICLE IV.—DISCIPLINE.

Tell it unto the Church.

SECTION 1.—The rule of discipline shall be the law of Christ given in Matt. 18 : 15 and 17.

SEC. 2.—In *private offenses* the offended one is, by a fraternal, prayerful conference to seek a spiritual healing, and so to "gain the brother." Failing in this, let him "take one or two more," and again strive to exert a loving, patient, healing power, which may soften and subdue, and avoid the necessity of resorting to the law and the penalty of a church trial.

SEC. 3.—In *public offenses*, inasmuch as every member suffers in the wrongs done to the Church, every member, aware of the same, shall be responsible for laboring, in the spirit of Christ, to bring the offender to repentance, or, in failure of success, for communicating the case to the Church, or to the Pastor, or Deacons.

SEC. 4.—In telling the case to the Church, aggrieved persons should present their charges in writing. If the Church vote to entertain the complaint, they will then appoint a time for the hearing of the case, and summon the accused to be present to take his trial, furnishing him with a written copy of the charges, and the names of the witnesses relied on for proof, at least a week before the trial.

SEC. 5.—Upon the trial the accused may call to his aid any member of the Church; in case of his non-appearance, a member shall be appointed to defend his case. The confession of the accused, or the testimony of two witnesses, or that which is fairly equivalent, shall be requisite for conviction.

SEC. 6.—If the Church shall find the accused guilty, they may, in their wisdom, admonish, suspend or excommunicate him. In cases of difficulty the advice and aid of a council may be sought.

SEC. 7.—An excommunicated person may be restored upon evidence of repentance, confession of sin, and reformation of his conduct.

ARTICLE V.—MEETINGS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together.
1 Cor. 5: 4.

SECTION 1.—The annual meeting shall be held at the regular Church meeting next preceding the first Sabbath in January, when the annual reports shall be rendered, and the regular elections made.

SEC. 2.—Contributions shall be solicited in the congregation for the leading objects of Christian beneficence, according to a schedule adopted by the Church from time to time.

ARTICLE VI.—ORDINANCES.

The Communion of the blood of Christ. 1 Cor. 10: 16. The washing of Regeneration. Tit. 3: 5.

SECTION 1.—The Lord's Supper shall ordinarily be celebrated on the first Sabbaths of January, March, May, July, September, and November. It shall be preceded by a preparatory service during the week previous. The invitation to the Lord's Table shall be such as to include all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and in truth, and who, having made a public profession of their faith, are in regular standing with the Church of Christ.

SEC. 2.—Baptism shall be administered in connection with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

ARTICLE VII.—AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS.

SECTION 1.—The Confession of Faith, the Covenant, and the Constitution, may be altered at a meeting of the Church, of which due notice shall be given on the preceding Sabbath, with a statement of the proposed alteration, by a majority of the resident members of the Church, or by two-thirds of those present, provided the change does not infringe upon the organic principles of this Church.

SEC. 2.—By-Laws, to carry out the provisions of this Constitution, may be enacted at any business meeting.

CATALOGUE OF MEMBERS

CONNECTED WITH

The Evangelical Congregational Church

IN GRAFTON, JANUARY 1st, 1870.

The number connected with the Church since its organization in 1732, seventeen hundred and thirty-two; deceased and dismissed, 1,130. The membership at this date is as follows:

MALE.

1820. Tarrant Merriam,	1850. Luke F. Allen,
1823. Benj. W. Fay,	1850. James W. McKenzie,
1824. Joseph Merriam,	1850. Chas. E. Perkins,
1828. Hollis Chamberlain,	1850. Henry Mann,
1829. Calvin Taft,	1851. Edw'd F. Chamberlain,
1831. Chas. I. Warren,	1851. Noah K. Merriam,
1831. Lewis Holbrook,	1855. Putnam H. Heywood,
1831. Joseph H. Whitney,	1856. T. Dwight Biscoe,
1831. Sumner Dinsmore,	1856. Joseph A. Titus,
1831. Edward B. Bigelow,	1856. Wm. A. Bigelow,
1832. Elias T. White,	1856. Frank H. Merriam,
1835. Lewis W. Dodge,	1856. Samuel H. Redding,
1835. Royal A. Keith,	1856. E. A. Force,
1839. Abram M. Bigelow,	1856. Melville G. C. Quimby,
1839. Chas. H. Towne,	1858. Edw'd S. Clark,
1840. Solomon L. Prentice,	1859. Joseph B. Adams,
1840. John P. Hayden,	1859. Henry F. Wing,
1840. Benj Kingsbury,	1859. E. W. Foote,
1840. Reussalaer Patch,	1859. Daniel B. Hubbard,
1840. Leander Stockwell,	1860. Henry D. Fisher,
1840. Delano Pierce,	1863. Elmore F. Brackett,
1841. Samuel Harrington,	1865. Sumner Packard,
1841. Wm. R. Hill,	1866. Franklin Worcester,
1842. Rufus E. Warren,	1867. Caleb J. Blakely,
1842. Minot Amsden,	1867. Geo. K. Nichols,
1842. Samuel C. Flagg,	1867. Joseph A. Dodge,
1842. John Putnam,	1867. Arthur J. Marble,
1842. Fred'k Waterman,	1867. A. B. Hudson,
1843. David Jourdan,	1868. David T. Dudley,
1846. Wm. W. Ayers,	1868. Russell Tinker,
1847. Freeman M. Marble,	1869. John H. Windsor,
1848. Lowell White,	1869. Geo. A. Fay,
1848. Humphrey M. Tyler,	1869. Arthur H. Greenwood,

FEMALE.

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| 1821. Sally Merriam, | 1843. Hannah Aldrich, |
| 1824. Mary E. Merriam, | 1843. Fanny C. Chamberlain, |
| 1824. Diadama Brigham, | 1845. Perline F. Morey, |
| 1824. Polly Read, | 1845. Maria E. Elliott, |
| 1827. Hannah Gary, | 1845. Nancy P. Goulding, |
| 1828. Sylvia Adams, | 1845. Abigail White, |
| 1828. Susan Greenwood, | 1845. Julia Stockwell, |
| 1828. Martha Fay, | 1845. Sarah A. McKenzie, |
| 1828. Lucianna Fowler, | 1845. Mary E. Marble, |
| 1829. Lucy Emily Pratt, | 1848. Sarah E. Harrington, |
| 1830. Anna P. Wood, | 1848. Jane A. Wood, |
| 1830. Huldah C. Warren, | 1850. Anna Elizabeth Pierce, |
| 1831. Elizabeth W. Flagg, | 1850. Ellen E. Kempton, |
| 1831. Martha H. Dodge, | 1850. Betsey G. Collier, |
| 1831. Mary Eliza Woodbury, | 1850. Eliza J. Bigelow, |
| 1831. Elizabeth W. Allen, | 1850. Jane E. Warren, |
| 1831. Sarah W. Putnam, | 1850. Mary L. Nichols, |
| 1831. Charlotte Leland, | 1850. Sylvia K. Koche, |
| 1832. Susan Redding, | 1850. M. Susan Redding, |
| 1832. Betsey Wing, | 1850. Lucy Ann Fay, |
| 1834. Susan Jourdan, | 1850. Sarah E. Knox, |
| 1835. Martha Fay, | 1851. Melitable Knowlton, |
| 1835. Sarah Howe, | 1851. Ann D. Adams, |
| 1837. Adeline P. Holbrook, | 1851. Sophia Forbush, |
| 1837. Mary J. Amsden, | 1851. Harriet Merriam, |
| 1837. Angeline H. Smith, | 1851. Caroline Waterman, |
| 1837. Candace A. Cary, | 1851. Elizabeth T. Putnam, |
| 1840. Anna G. Hammond, | 1852. Nancy Wheelock, |
| 1840. Mary F. Kimball, | 1852. Caroline M. White, |
| 1840. Anna Putnam, | 1853. Eliza Pierce, |
| 1840. Hannah S. Kingsbury, | 1853. Catherine M. Flagg, |
| 1840. Sarah S. Lathe, | 1853. Sophia A. Holbrook, |
| 1840. Betsey H. Kimball, | 1853. Ann Dudley, |
| 1840. Mary Ann Rich, | 1854. Catherine Bassett, |
| 1840. Mary B. Parker, | 1854. Samaria Whitney, |
| 1841. Hannah W. Harrington, | 1855. Hannah Brown, |
| 1841. Julia A. Griggs, | 1855. Mary J. Fiske, |
| 1841. Harriet N. Dinsmore, | 1855. Caroline Varney, |
| 1841. Lydia D. Keith, | 1855. Maria Parker, |
| 1841. Emily B. Hill, | 1856. Emily A. Moulton, |
| 1841. Abigail Pratt, | 1856. Abigail K. Merriam, |
| 1841. Lois Hayden, | 1856. Abbie F. Houghton, |
| 1842. Delphia W. Sherman, | 1856. Sophia S. Munyan, |
| 1842. Mary E. W. Tyler, | 1856. Susan E. Martin, |
| 1842. Pinchia Sherman, | 1856. H. Catherine Harrington, |
| 1842. Emily H. Mills, | 1856. Mary S. Johnson, |

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| 1857. Sarah A. Holden, | 1867. Caroline W. Hill, |
| 1857. Julia H. Prentice, | 1867. Ellen A. Hill, |
| 1857. Mary S. Penniman, | 1867. Delia S. Hudson, |
| 1857. Sarah A. Stephens, | 1867. Lucy M. Dodge, |
| 1857. Ellen E. Warren, | 1867. Lucy M. Styles, |
| 1857. Jane M. Bigelow, | 1867. Marion C. Putnam, |
| 1858. E. D. Hartwell, | 1867. Mary Fay, |
| 1858. Asuba S. Heywood, | 1867. Ida F. Flagg, |
| 1859. Addie Hubbard, | 1867. Margaret L. Allen, |
| 1859. Mary G. Foote, | 1867. Ella Dwyer, |
| 1859. N. Jane Batchelder, | 1868. Catherine B. Sherman, |
| 1859. Mary E. Wing, | 1868. Catherine R. Sherman, |
| 1862. Deruhe Jewett, | 1868. Ellen M. Blakely, |
| 1862. Rebecca A. Davis, | 1868. Clara M. Putnam, |
| 1863. Hattie M. Brackett, | 1868. Julia E. Putnam, |
| 1864. A. A. Chamberlain, | 1868. Beatrice Watkins, |
| 1864. Mary Pogue, | 1868. Lucy E. Windsor, |
| 1865. Elizabeth H. Hawes, | 1868. Irene A. Fay, |
| 1865. Emiline Packard, | 1868. Ruth M. Tinker, |
| 1865. Nancy R. Worcester, | 1868. Hattie A. Fay, |
| 1866. Nancy Pogue, | 1869. Esther M. Whitney, |
| 1866. M. P. Dennis, | 1869. Ada F. Bigelow, |
| 1866. Isabel H. Dennis, | 1869. Anna E. Pierce, |
| 1866. Ellen L. Hancock, | 1869. Kesiah P. Coots, |
| 1867. Rhoda T. Fassett, | 1869. Anna B. McFarland, |
| 1867. Isabella A. Fassett, | 1869. Margaret Carrick, |
| 1867. Ellen A. Wing, | 1869. Abigail Fisher, |
| 1867. Sophia J. Redding, | 1870. Ella Brigham Kempton, |
| 1867. Sarah A. Keith, | 1870. Susan H. Allen, |
| 1867. Ellen N. Keith, | 1870. Abbie R. Worcester, |
| 1867. Margaret S. Allen, | 1870. Mary C. Watkins. |



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